

Are you lobbying?

As a matter of law and public policy in Canada, free and open access to government is considered to be in the public interest. Organizations such as The Salvation Army, and the individuals hired to represent it, are both permitted and entitled to communicate with elected and unelected public officials.

Ministry Unit leads that meet with government officials to discuss laws, policies, programs or funding decisions may need to report their activities to their Divisional Secretary for Public Relations or the Public Affairs Office at Territorial Headquarters.

Lobbying self-assessment

Answer these questions to assess whether your interactions with government officials might constitute lobbying.

Are you:

- being paid by The Salvation Army (i.e. you are not a volunteer)
- to communicate, verbally or in writing and directly or indirectly
- with a **public office holder**

about:

- the introduction, passage, amendment or defeat of legislation or regulations
- in Quebec, the issue of a permit, license, certificate or authorization
- the adoption, amendment or repeal of a government policy
- creation or (in some cases) cancellation of a government program
- a decision to grant funding in the form of a grant, contribution or other financial benefit?

and, if you are meeting with provincial or municipal government officials;

- are you attempting to influence their decisions regarding any of the items listed above?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, your activity may constitute lobbying and you must report it to your DSPR or the PAO.

What is a public office holder?

The definition of “public office holder” varies from one province or municipality to another, however, as a general rule, the following will be considered public office holders:

- Municipal councilors and their staff
- Municipal government employees (i.e. public servants)
- School board trustees
- Members of provincial legislative assemblies or members of federal parliament and their staff

- Provincial and federal cabinet ministers (or members of provincial Executive Councils) and their staff
- Provincial and federal public servants, including employees of Crown corporations and other government agencies

Exclusions

The following are not considered lobbying:

- General “public relations” interactions with provincial government officials that do not include an attempt to influence laws, regulations, policy, program or funding decisions (e.g. meet and greet, visit to MU, donor recognition events)
- Verbal and written communications initiated by federal government officials regarding laws, policies or programs
- Verbal and written communications initiated by provincial government officials regarding laws, policies, programs or funding
- Verbal or written submissions to a committee of the provincial/territorial Legislative Assembly, the House of Commons or the Senate, which are a matter of public record
- Verbal or written submissions on behalf of a constituent of an elected official regarding a personal matter